

REMARKS

Claims 11-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 11 is amended, and claims 16-32 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Support for the amendments to claim 11 can be found in original claims 11. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Salimi during the June 20 telephonic interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks. Specifically, claim 11 is amended to comply with the Examiner's helpful suggestions.

I. Election/Restrictions

The Office Action indicates that claims 16-32 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected invention. While Applicant does not necessarily agree, claims 16-32 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the Restriction between pending claims 11-15 and claims 16-32 is rendered moot.

II. Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that

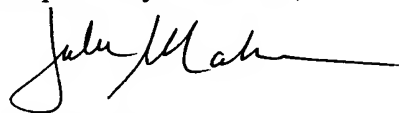
Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the term "improving" in claim 11 is asserted to be a "relative term subject to varied interpretation." While Applicant does not necessarily agree with this assertion, claim 11 is amended herein to remove the phrase "or improving." Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 11-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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